

RSU #12 District Budget Meeting

8/13/13

Last night the RSU #12 School Board presented a “revised” budget to the citizens of the 8 towns. On the face of it, they called it a reduction. However, as those in attendance soon learned, the reduction is really just increased monies from the State through subsidies that the legislature found in their budget (that is your money from your other pocket) as well as some new funding to cover an existing program. In essence the decrease in local tax is found by payments we make to the State. Yes the local share is reduced by \$445,000 (that is a total amount not just Windsor’s share).

To add insult to injury, we were all told that the question that they asked regarding the budget being “too high, too low, or about right” was not clear enough for them to determine what the voters meant when the majority said “too high”, they were not sure because they thought it was too ambiguous. (This was a question that the RSU #12 Board had posed who are the same people who are responsible for the education of your children.) They said their own question left them without a clear idea of what the voters thought of their budget! By the way, a clear majority said TOO HIGH!

As Selectmen we can’t recommend a YES vote on the revised budget as it will still cause an increase in our tax rate. While we cannot yet tell how much that will be, we can be sure that this year your tax rate (\$/1000) will be higher than last year. On the Town side of the budget we approved an additional \$46,222 in expenditures over last year, which will have a very minimal impact on the tax rate but the school increase somewhere in the range of \$250,000 will have a significant impact of the tax rate (mil rate).